

SOLID WASTE *works*

Spring/Summer 2010

Not Just a Man's Job

It might be a man's world, as the James Brown song goes, but don't tell that to Mozella Thompson.

"I like my job because it's a 'man's job,'" said Mozella, the first woman in the Department to become a Trash Crane Operator. "I like doing something a man is supposed to do but a woman can do it, too."

The Miami native started as a Waste Attendant at Solid Waste in 1991 and hasn't looked back since. She was promoted to Trash Truck Driver 1 in 1994, Trash Truck Driver 2 in 2000 and her current posi-



Mozella Thompson enters the cab of her Trash Crane rig at the start of a work day.

tion as Trash Crane Operator last year.

"This is the biggest thing that ever happened to me," Mozella said. "I never thought this would happen."

"She's a fantastic employee, she's always on time, serious, diligent and she follows instructions," said Kenny Edwards, her supervisor until recently. "She's a very good employee."

The dedicated mother to five children explains her source of inspiration: "I put Jesus first; I don't even think of my limitations," Mozella said.

"I just go for it if the opportunity is there."



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear DSWM Staff,

The last few months have been very busy for everyone in the Department and the summer months will be just as active as we move into hurricane season and prepare for what will likely be a difficult budget season.

Let me begin by thanking every staff member for all your hard work and preparation for the Sterling Examiners' site visit in early March. As I conducted employee briefings, I could sense the tremendous pride and enthusiasm that you all have for the Department's work. From the feedback that we received from the Sterling Examiners, they were very impressed with our employees, services and programs. They outlined a number of strengths of which we can be proud. The Examiners also shared areas they felt were opportunities for improvement. While we didn't win the Governor's Sterling Award, we were honored with a Sterling Quality Achievement Award at the annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

June is the Department's Safety and Health Awareness Month. While employee safety and health is a year-round priority, I'd like to encourage everyone to exercise additional caution during the summer months -- especially those employees whose jobs expose them to the summer heat and rain. Be sure to stay hydrated and dress appropriately for the high temperatures. Please be mindful of the summer rain and thunderstorms as you operate your vehicles and equipment.

June also marks the start of hurricane season. Now is the time to dust off your personal hurricane plan so that you and your family members are prepared. It's also time to familiarize yourself with your Division's hurricane plan so that you'll know what your role will be. If you haven't already done so, be sure to update your Blue Book information through ENet.

Later this summer, the Mayor will announce the proposed budget for FY 2010-11. As I've mentioned in recent worksite staff meetings, this budget season will be as tough as last year's. As a Department, we've had to reduce our planned expenditures for the balance of FY 2009-10, and we've had to make reductions to our request for the new budget year. In spite of the fiscal challenges ahead of us, I know that I can count on each of you to continue providing the exceptional waste collection, disposal and recycling services that our customers expect and deserve.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and safe summer.

Kathleen Woods-Richardson
Director

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2010 Hurricane Season is expected to be one of the most active ever? Be prepared, learn more by visiting the Department's website at www.miamidade.gov/dswm and looking for hurricane preparedness information.

DSWM Hosts International Officials

This past March, DSWM hosted a visit by officials from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, including The Honorable Earl D. Deveaux, Minister of the Environment for the island nation. The purpose of the visit was for the Bahamian officials to see Miami-Dade County's solid waste operations in action.

The Bahamian officials toured the South Dade Landfill, the Home



Bahamian officials and DSWM staff tour the South Dade Landfill. From left to right: Ms. Melony McKenzie, Director of the Department of Environmental Health for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Mr. Ronald W. Thompson, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; The Hon. Earl D. Deveaux, Minister of the Environment for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Leonard N. Enriquez, President-Cambridge Project Development Inc.; and German Hernandez, P.G., Manager, Environmental Affairs, DSWM.



Members of the Conservation and Environment Portfolio Committee of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa pose for a picture in front of the Resources Recovery Facility.

Chemical Collection Center in south Miami-Dade, and the Resources Recovery Facility in Doral.

In May, another group of international visitors came to DSWM. This time, it was the Conservation and Environment Portfolio Committee of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The Committee was on a Study Tour that took them to New York, Washington, DC, Mexico, and of course, Miami-Dade County.

The South African committee toured several Miami-Dade County sites, including the Resources Recovery Facility in Doral. Word is, they considered the Miami-Dade leg of the tour the highlight of their visit!

Proper Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal

They've been around a few years now and they're good for the environment in terms of helping reduce electrical usage. But what do you do when your fluorescent bulb burns out?

Fluorescent bulbs—both the newer compact fluorescent bulb, or CFL, and the older long-tube type—contain mercury. As you probably already know, mercury is hazardous and it should not be disposed of in your garbage, nor should it be placed into a recycling cart. That means you shouldn't do the same with your old fluorescent bulbs.

So how do you get rid of a spent fluorescent bulb?

If the bulb is broken, there are certain precautions you should take before cleaning up and throwing the broken bulb parts away. Visit the EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent> for instructions on

disposing of broken fluorescent bulbs safely.

If the bulb is intact, you can take it to one of our permanent Home Chemical Collection Centers. The Environmental Compliance Division operates two centers, located in West Dade at 8831 N.W. 58th Street, and in South Dade at the South Dade Landfill, 23707 SW 97th Avenue, Gate-B. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding County holidays. The centers accept both CFL bulbs and the older, long-tube fluorescent bulbs.

Some large home improvement stores will also accept CFL bulbs (but not the long-tube fluorescents). Check with your nearest store for details.

Whatever you do, please be sure to protect Miami-Dade's precious environment by disposing of old fluorescent bulbs properly!



CONGRATULATIONS

CORNER

Delivering Excellence Every Day

A total of 12 DSWM employees were rewarded for their hard work with a promotion during second quarter of the current fiscal year. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:

Account Clerk
Carmen Guerrero

Trash Crane Operator
Julio Espinal

Trash Truck Driver 1
Reginald Woods
Isaac McKune
Donnita Kemp
Omar Ayabarreno
Rolando Valdes

Trash Truck Driver 2
Tasman Gordon

Waste Collector
Anthony McCallam
John Spivey
Jerry Mingo
Louis Williams

Welcome to the following County employees who transferred to the DSWM:

Administrative Officer 3
Marion Pratt
Irelene King-Allen

Construction Manager 1
Rafael Puente

Personnel Technician
Eugenia Parham

Trash Truck Driver 1
Harvey Eberhart
Rufus Vaughn Jr.

Welcome to the following new hires to the DSWM team:

Waste Attendant 1
Michael James
Billy Kinsey Jr.
Eugene Ray
Anthony Dowdell

Congratulations, best wishes and a heartfelt thank you for a job well done to DSWM employees who have recently retired:

3A Garbage
Caesar Russell
Waste Truck Driver
30 years

3B Garbage
Lenard Jefferson
Waste Collector
35 years

South Dade Landfill
William Thorne
Division Director 2
25 years

58th Street Trash
Hector Torres
Waste Supervisor 1
30 years

Director's Office
Ann Webber
Administrative Officer 3
31 years

West Transfer Station
George Alvarez
Trash Truck Driver 2
28 years

E-Mail From Another Satisfied DSWM Customer

Nancy Lorenzo with the Enforcement Division was recognized recently by our Department Director for outstanding performance on the job. We'll let the very happy residents tell the story:

Dear Ms. Richardson:

This e-mail is sent to commend one of your staff, Ms. Nancy Lorenzo. We truly appreciate very much all the assistance she provided to resolve our problem with FPL. We experienced a bad situation with FPL where they damaged our landscaping/grass while they were working to install a new light-pole extension in front of our property. We sent a complaint to the County Manager and then, we received a phone call from Ms. Lorenzo advising us that she would be handling our issue.

In a very summarized way, she showed great commitment to get it resolved quickly and she even came personally to the property (before and after) to see what had happened and ensure it was fixed.

We, as citizens and tax-payers of this great County, really appreciate (during this unpleasant incident) her dedication and efforts as a County employee who [was] determined to get things done and done right the first time. Especially, she kept us updated always on her progress and phoned us from time to time, which greatly reduced our anxiety and frustration with FPL.

Ms. Richardson, if the County Manager, George Burgess, always says: "Delivering Excellence Every Day to our Residents of Miami-Dade County", we can proudly and unequivocally add the service provided to us by Ms. Lorenzo as one of these [examples of] Excellence. No doubt.

Thank you and may God continue to provide you and your staff with guidance to serve our great Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. O
Miami, FL 33185

Congratulations to ALL DSWM Employees on a Great Job

The commendations keep coming from citizens who are impressed with our employees and their commitment to delivering excellence every day.

Recently, a citizen who was attending a conference where the director was registered to participate made it a point to wait for her to personally deliver his words of appreciation for the fine job being done by DSWM employees.

Just days later, the Director received words of praise from Robert Thompson, an employee with the County's Commis-

sion on Ethics. Mr. Thompson reported that while dropping off household trash at the Sunset Kendall Trash & Recycling Center, he witnessed the professionalism of the staff that had to turn away an ineligible customer. He gave the employees kudos for the way they managed the situation and avoided what could have turned unpleasant.

The Director reported that Mr. Thompson expressed that Solid Waste employees are "good guys who really do their best." Keep up the good work!

New Waste Collection System in the Works

The Department is working with the County's Government Information Center (GIC), 3-1-1 and ETSD to create a new computer application that can manage customer service inquiries, complaints, and everything the current Waste Collection System (WCS) can handle—and more.

Currently, the Department's Information Services Division is completing a long list of needed and desired features for the new system. The list will be submitted to GIC, which is working on a system that can be used Countywide.

The new system is expected to interface with other Departments' databases, including Building and Zoning, Tax Collector, and Property Appraisal. The new system will go beyond the customer record functions of the current system, to include enforcement and billing information as well.

The new system is expected to include features that will enable the following:

- Uploading of photos taken by enforcement officers and operations staff;
- Customer access to account information (including bulky waste pick-up requests) via the Web;
- Real-time access to customer information complaints, code enforcement complaints and billing and payment information;
- Online payments via checks, debit and credit cards; storing front and back images of processed checks;
- GIS map-making and routing capabilities.

The new and improved system will allow the DSWM to integrate some of the latest information technology and allow employees to better serve our customers.

New Look for 58th Street Operations

DSWM's 58th Street facility is about to get a new look.

If all goes according to plan, construction should begin on the 58th Street building in late summer or early fall this year. The plan is to strip the old building – keeping just the shell, or the walls and the roof – and renovating it. The refurbishment of the building should take about a year to complete.

Workers at the 58th Street facility will be housed temporarily in trailers during demolition and construction. The newly redone building should be ready and open for service by fall 2011.



Artist's rendering of the redesigned 58th Street building.

Think, Plan and Act for 2010 Hurricane Season

DSWM partnered with the Government Information Center, the Department of Emergency Management and Water and Sewer to produce "Think. Plan. Act.," the County's 2010 hurricane readiness guide. Hard copies of the guide are available at the MLK Center office building; the guide is also available online at the Department's website at www.miamidade.gov/dswm.

It's also very important to ensure that your information is updated

in the County's Blue Book (access through ENet). The information in the Blue Book will be used to contact you in the event of an emergency, including a hurricane.

Please be sure to make your personal and family hurricane preparations in advance, as all DSWM employees are considered essential and you will likely be called in to work even as a storm approaches.

Recycling Savings!

Miami-Dade's recycling efforts helped save the following:

- 108,852 mature trees
- 42 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 42,421 cubic yards of landfill airspace

- 20,714 barrels of oil
- Additionally, the County helped avoid the release of 15,300 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and the County's waste-to-energy facility generated 2 million kilowatt hours of electricity from waste.

The Recycling Machine...Imagine That!

DSWM, in conjunction with the Government Information Center (GIC), has produced a new promotional advertisement for the recycling program. The spot, titled "Recycling Machine," shows a child sketching artwork of an imaginary "machine" that can change old items into new products ("soup cans transform into rebar for green buildings," plastic "bottles become t-shirts" and "newspapers are reborn as works of art").

The 30-second spot is available online. It has been airing as a pre-movie advertisement at local AMC, Regal and Cobb movie theaters since Memorial Day weekend and will continue through July 22, 2010.

So, if you've been putting off going to the movies for awhile, why not go now and catch the "Recycling Machine" advertisement?



PIO Division Director Gayle Love and Recycling Manager Jeanmarie Massa pose with GIC staff and the Herbert A. Ammons Middle School students who served as talent for the ad.

Cell 3 Closure at South Dade



HDPE liner is placed on top of Cell 3 in the foreground, as a bulldozer spreads sand in the background.

This past March saw the closure of Cell 3 at the South Dade Landfill. Cell 3 had been in operation since 1988.

But just because it's closed doesn't mean an end to all activity on Cell 3. Maintenance is still going on. As part of the closure process, gas wells were installed on Cell 3 to aid in the removal of methane and other gases, a byproduct of decomposing waste.

The closure process for Cell 3 began in February 2009. The closure process includes grading (sloping the edges of) the cell; installation of gas wells, which must be spaced no more than 250 feet apart; and covering the cell with a plastic (high-density polyethylene, or HDPE) liner, then two feet of sand, then sod. Cell 3 was 50 acres at its bottom, but the top is smaller due to grading.

Cell 4 is still open at the South Dade Landfill. Work on the newest cell—Cell 5—is slated to begin in 2011, with that cell to start accepting waste during the fourth quarter of 2014.

Career Day Speakers Bureau

Throughout the school year, many counselors, teachers and career specialists call the DSWM requesting speakers for their respective "career days." These events offer children an opportunity to explore careers they might pursue when they become adults and are ready to enter the world

Collections

Willie Bouie
Willie Collins
Christoph Cummings
Wanda Floyd
Gary Knight
Alvin McCray

Jorge Soriano

Gregory Stewart

Human Resources

Yolanda Minus
Raymond Ng

Information Services

Albert Fernandez

of work. And the presentations provide a great opportunity to expose students to the many careers in the solid waste industry.

A special thanks to the following DSWM employees who participated in this year's numerous career day events!

Maintenance

Barrant Smellie
Jason Williams

PIO

Frank Calderon
Gayle Love
Jeanmarie Massa

Carla McMullen

Gerard Metellus
Eduardo Rubio-Garcia

Planning

Robert Menge

SAFETY

CORNER

June 2010 is the third annual Safety and Health Awareness Month. This observance was created to promote safe operations and personal health to DSWM employees.

This year, DSWM will host four health and wellness fairs throughout June, as well as a facility safety contest (garbage, trash, transfer and landfill divisions). Weeks one and four's events will focus on safe operations, weeks two and three's events will highlight personal health. The event schedule is listed below.

And remember the Safety and Health Awareness Month slogan: Be Safe. Be Healthy. Be Proud.

Health and Wellness Fairs

Date / Time	Location
June 14, 2010, 6:45 AM to 8:45 AM	58th Street Operations (Conference Room)
June 24, 2010, 5:45 AM to 8:45 AM	South Dade Landfill (Employee Lounge)
June 28, 2010, 6:45 AM to 8:45 AM	3B Operations (Conference Room)

"Safety Corner" is our newest feature. Look for it in future issues of Solid Waste Works!

Earth Day Events

DSWM staff participated in a number of events this past April surrounding the annual celebration of Earth Day. Earth Day, which was founded in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson, marked its 40th anniversary this year.

During DERM's Baynanza, which took place in April the weekend before Earth Day, DSWM staff operated a booth at the Baynanza "VIP" volunteer site. The booth, situated at the lovely Deering Estate on Biscayne Bay, featured information and a number of promotional items.

The County had its own Earth Day celebration later, on April 20th. DSWM staff members were there, along with representatives from DSWM's recycling contractors and several other County departments.

Children, County officials and residents participated. DSWM's booth included the fun "Wheel of Recycling" game, Cycler the Robot and plenty of promotional goodies!

The Department has a new Earth Day-related motto: "At Solid Waste Management, Every Day Is Earth Day." The new motto is featured on a banner in the lobby of the Department's main office on the fifth floor of the MLK Center building, as well as new buttons distributed to all employees.



Cycler the Robot wows the crowd at the DSWM table during the County's Earth Day celebration.



Delivering Excellence Every Day



Solid Waste Works is published quarterly by the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Office Plaza, 2525 N.W. 62nd Street, Suite 5100, Miami, FL 33147 • Switchboard (305) 514-6666 • Customer Service 3-1-1 • www.miamidade.gov/dswm

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor

Dennis C. Moss
Commission Chairman

José "Pepe" Díaz
Commission Vice Chairman

Barbara J. Jordan
District 1

Dorrin D. Rolle
District 2

Audrey Edmonson
District 3

Sally A. Heyman
District 4

Bruno A. Barreiro
District 5

Rebeca Sosa
District 6

Carlos A. Gimenez
District 7

Katy Sorenson
District 8

Senator Javier D. Souto
District 10

Joe A. Martinez
District 11

Natacha Seijas
District 13

Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts

Pedro J. Garcia
Property Appraiser

George M. Burgess
County Manager

Robert A. Cuevas Jr.
County Attorney

Howard Piper
Special Assistant
County Executive Office

Kathleen Woods-Richardson
Director

Vicente Castro
Deputy Director
Operations

Christopher Rose
Deputy Director
Administration

Gayle Love
Senior Division Director
Public Information &
Outreach Division

Frank Calderon
Editor